

I am also proud of other programs that take place throughout the year to encourage reading. In October 1998, Congress passed the Reading Excellence Act to provide competitive reading and literacy grants to states. The purpose of the program is to help high-need schools teach children to read in their early childhood years. In addition to classroom instruction, the program helps teachers to improve their teaching. It also expands the number of high-quality family literacy programs, works with local and national organizations to ensure that children have access to books, and provides early literacy assistance for children with reading difficulties.

Last August, Massachusetts was one of only 17 states to receive funds under this competitive grant. The Massachusetts Department of Education distributed these funds to local school districts throughout the State. The program builds on the America Reads initiative. In 1996, President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton designed a new effort to call national attention to child literacy by proposing the "America Reads Challenge," which encourages colleges and universities to earmark a portion of their Work-Study funds for college students willing to serve as literacy tutors. Institutions of higher education across Massachusetts are already creating strong ties with surrounding communities, and participation in the initiative enhances those relationships. Today, over 1,000 colleges and universities across the country are committed to the President's "America Reads Work Study Program," and 73 of these institutions are in Massachusetts. I'm proud of the strong national commitment that we are making to help every child read well. By working together, we can make a significant difference for children across the country.

Last year I celebrated "Read Across America Day" with students from Squantum Elementary School in Massachusetts. The students and teachers have an excellent slogan—"Drop Everything and Read." For at least 15 minutes a day, the school does just that. But if we truly want to help all children learn to read early and well, every day should be Read Across America Day.●

TRIBUTE TO LARRY AHRENS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Larry Ahrens, a man who has become an institution in Albuquerque. This week he celebrates his 20th anniversary as morning host on 770 KOB, one of the best-known radio stations in New Mexico. Larry's radio career has spanned much of my own Senate career, and we have developed a wonderful friendship and working relationship over the past two decades.

There is something comforting about turning on the radio and hearing the

same recognizable voice welcoming the day. For thousands of New Mexicans, Larry has become that reassuring deliverer of news, commentary and other interesting and entertaining information. It hardly seems like 20 years have lapsed since Larry first addressed KOB listeners and endeared himself to us with his level-headed take on life in Albuquerque and the Land of Enchantment.

Larry Ahrens took over New Mexico's most high-profile radio job as morning host on 770 KOB on March 3, 1980. But he began his career in his native southern California.

A job offer in Roswell brought Larry to the New Mexico airwaves in late 1972. Apparently his talent was clear even then, as an El Paso station owner traveling through Roswell heard Larry on the air and ended up offering him a job. Ahrens spent two and a half years in El Paso before coming back to New Mexico to begin his long run as host of KOB's morning show.

Over the years, I've observed that a lot of radio personalities come and go. Larry has been a steady and reliable fixture on KOB, which I attribute to the fact that his show mirrors the community. He has served New Mexico with integrity, opening his mike to air the views of the day—whether they come from young mothers on Albuquerque's West Side, retirees in the Heights, or even the occasional politician.

Part of Larry's appeal is linked to the fact that his job is more than sharing with New Mexicans between 5:30 and 10:00 a.m. Like so many others, I appreciate Larry as an active member of the community and a key supporter of important civic causes. One example is Larry's annual golf tournament for the University of New Mexico's academic scholarship program, now in its 18th year. He has raised more than \$600,000 to give scores of New Mexico students an opportunity to continue their education.

Larry and the morning show he hosts play a welcome role in the day-to-day lives of many New Mexicans. Where once I could only enjoy Larry's broadcasts when in New Mexico, I am pleased that technology is now so advanced that I can listen to his show live on the Internet. It's almost like being home.

Times may have changed since Larry first took to the airwaves, but his presence has remained constant for 20 years. Today, I think it would be fair to say Larry reigns as the premiere morning show host in Albuquerque.

Mr. President, I congratulate Larry Ahrens on this career milestone, and salute his contributions to New Mexico throughout his impressive career. Finally, I add my voice to those thousands and thousands of New Mexicans who look forward to tuning into the radio to hear Larry's show for years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

6-MONTH PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 88

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2000.

2000 TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND THE 1999 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 89

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To The Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 2000 Trade Policy Agenda and 1999 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program. The Report, as required by sections 122, 124, and 125 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, includes the Annual Report on the World Trade Organization and a 5-year assessment of the U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2000.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:11 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1833) to provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran certain goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 613. An act to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

At 1:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1883. An act to provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran certain goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3557. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 2, 2000, he presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill.

S. 613. An act to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-7849. A communication from the Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff, Department of Commerce transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Watch, Watch Movement and Jewelry Program for the U.S. Insular Possessions" (RIN0625-AA55), received March 1, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7850. A communication from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the "2000 Report to Congress: Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7851. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2000 Automobile Inflation Adjustment" (Rev. Proc. 2000-18), received March 18, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7852. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Revisions to the Georgia State Implementation Plan" (FRL # 6547-4), received March 1, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7853. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Optional Certification Streamlining Procedures for Light-Duty Vehicles, Light-Duty Trucks, and Heavy-Duty Engines for Original Equipment Manufacturers and for Aftermarket Conversion Manufacturers; Final Rule" (FRL # 6547-4), received March 1, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7854. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the 2000 "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7855. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Presidential Determination 2000-16 regarding certification of the 26 major illicit drug producing and transit countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 577. A bill to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH for the Committee on Finance.

Larry L. Levitan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

Steve H. Nickles, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of four years. (New Position)

Robert M. Tobias, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

Karen Hastie Williams, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of three years. (New Position)

George L. Farr, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service

Oversight Board for a term of four years. (New Position)

Charles L. Kolbe, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of three years. (New Position)

Nancy Killefer, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Julio M. Fuentes, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

James D. Whittemore, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2138. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 11-Aminoundecanoic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2139. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt agricultural stormwater and silviculture operation discharges from the requirement for a permit under the pollutant discharge elimination system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2140. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish within the Department of State an Under Secretary of State for Security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 2141. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Georgia; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2142. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain bromine-containing compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2143. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain fluoride compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2144. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain fluorozirconium compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2145. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain imaging chemicals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2146. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for temporary duty-free treatment for